

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

JASON ROMERO, an individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF WASHINGTON,
WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,
ARIEG AWAD, JULIA BARNETT,
MARY GUMBO, ADELAIDE
HORNE, and DOES I-X, inclusive,,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:20-cv-1027 RSM-MLP

**STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

This matter came on regularly for hearing on July 27, 2021, without oral argument before the above-titled Court. The Court having reviewed the record and files herein, and the Court being otherwise fully advised rules as follows.

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. This agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or

1 items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does
 2 not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

3 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

4 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
 5 produced or otherwise exchanged:

6 2.1 Information related to adult employees. “CONFIDENTIAL” material may also
 7 include the following materials, and such materials must be designated “Confidential.”

8 (a) Personnel records pertaining to any current or former employee of the
 9 Department of Corrections (“DOC”), that contain personally identifiable information (PII), or
 10 sensitive personal information (SPI) may be redacted. The personal information that may be
 11 redacted includes: residential addresses; residential telephone numbers; personal wireless
 12 telephone numbers; personal electronic email addresses; social security numbers; driver’s license
 13 numbers; identification numbers; dates of birth; emergency contact information; banking and
 14 financial information; benefits elections; and any other such information for any dependents
 15 identified in a personnel file. Good cause exists to protect the privacy rights of Defendant DOC’s
 16 current and former employees. These files may include the individuals' personal identifying
 17 information and financial account information. No public interest is served by requiring public
 18 disclosure of an individual's private and personal information.

19 (b) Personnel records from any third-party that contain PII, or SPI may be
 20 redacted. The personal information that may be redacted includes: residential addresses; residential
 21 telephone numbers; personal wireless telephone numbers; personal electronic email addresses;
 22 social security numbers; driver’s license numbers; identification numbers; dates of birth;
 23 emergency contact information; banking and financial information; benefits elections; and any
 24 other such information for any dependents identified in a personnel file. Good cause exists to
 25 protect the privacy rights of these non-parties. These files may include the individuals' personal
 26 identifying information and financial account information. No public interest is served by requiring

1 public disclosure of an individual's private and personal information.

2 3. SCOPE

3 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
4 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all
5 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
6 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

7 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
8 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

9 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

10 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
11 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
12 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
13 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material
14 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
15 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement. Under no circumstances shall
16 information or materials covered by this Protective Order be disclosed to anyone other than as
17 provided in this Order.

18 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
19 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
20 confidential material only to:

21 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
22 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

23 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
24 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
25 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so
26 designated;

1 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
2 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

3 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

4 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
5 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
6 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately
7 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

8 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
9 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
10 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
11 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must
12 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
13 under this agreement;

14 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
15 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

16 4.3 Privilege Log

17 A privilege log shall be included in all productions noting documents redacted or
18 withheld and the reasons therefore. No privilege log shall be required for withholding personally
19 identifiable information and sensitive personal information of those categories of DOC personnel
20 and non-parties identified in Paragraph 2 above.

21 4.4 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
22 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
23 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
24 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion
25 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the
26 designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,

1 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing
2 the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
3 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material
4 under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the
5 requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal.
6 Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with
7 the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

8 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

9 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party
10 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
11 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
12 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
13 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
14 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
15 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

16 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
17 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to
18 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses
19 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

20 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
21 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
22 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

23 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
24 agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
25 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must
26 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

(a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party’s confidentiality

1 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
2 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
3 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
4 original designation is disclosed.

5 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
6 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
7 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration
8 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other
9 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
10 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
11 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

12 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
13 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
14 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
15 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
16 made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
17 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
18 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

19 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
20 LITIGATION

21 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
22 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party
23 must:

24 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
25 subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10. RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

1 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
2 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED

4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any
5 documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or
6 state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those
7 documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other
8 privilege or protection recognized by law.

9 DATED this 27th day of July, 2021.

10
11 

12 MICHELLE L. PETERSON
13 United States Magistrate Judge

14
15 Presented by:

16 ROBERT W. FERGUSON
17 Attorney General

CIVIL RIGHTS JUSTICE CENER PLLC

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Jason Romero

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on
[_____] in the case of *Jason Romero v. State of Washington, Washington State*
Department of Corrections, Arieg awad, Julie Barnett, Mary Gumbo, Adelaide Horne, and Does
I-X, USDC-WD, Seattle No. 2:20-cv-01027-RSM-MLP. I agree to comply with and to be bound
by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure
to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly
promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this
Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions
of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 16th day of July, 2021, I caused the foregoing document to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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